

Town of Somers  
Cemetery Committee Minutes

October 10, 2012  
Somers Town Hall

**1. Call to Order**

The regular meeting was called to order at approximately 2:05 pm by Chairman Carole Pyne. The following members were present and constituted a quorum: George Warner, Tom Brewer, Ed Sullivan, Irene Percoski and Carole Pyne. Also present was David McCaffrey, to act as temporary recording secretary. Kim Marcotte, CFO was also present.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes for the Special Meeting of April 11, 2012 were reviewed. Motion made and passed to approve. Minutes for the July 11, 2012 Regular Meeting were reviewed. Corrections noted.

Amended item #2; Minutes for 11 April Special Meeting were not approved as there was not a quorum at the previous Regular Meeting as Tom Brewer was absent.

Amended item C: 3 maple trees were removed vice 2 trees.

Amended item #1: Title of Jay D'Aleo, Sexton, vice Sexton of Roger's Memorials.

A motion was made by Ed Sullivan to approve the amended Minutes of the July 11, 2012 regular meeting. George Warner seconded. Motion passed.

**3. Recognition/Appreciation Ceremony for Resignation of Irene Percoski**

Chairman Carole Pyne spoke in appreciation of Irene's many years of dedication to the Town upon her resignation from the Cemetery Committee. Irene was presented with flowers and some mementos. A short recess was held for refreshments. Irene departed meeting at conclusion of recognition/appreciation ceremony at 2:20 p.m.

**4. Chairman's Report**

Chairman Carole Pyne reported on cemetery activities: New West, 2 Arborvitae's had been planted without permission and there has been no luck in contacting the owners of the plot; also, a large rose bush had been planted, and the plot owner has been contacted and they will be removing the bush by the end of the season; additionally, a town resident called in to complain that two large steel green four-leaf clovers had been removed from in front of his plot. Carole reported that these items had been removed by the landscaping company during routine summer cleanup, and that the cleanup had been posted in advance in the town's newspaper. Nonetheless, the resident was unhappy and indicated that he was planning on writing a formal complaint to the committee. It was noted that all of the contents that were removed had been placed in a general collection area, but apparently the items in question had been removed from the area by an unknown party. In Center, another tree has been planted without permission and efforts are underway to have it removed. There has also been a complaint of dog walking on the grounds in violation of the posted rules. Additionally, a plot owner had raised questions about who is authorized to install foundations/grave stones. The Chairman indicated that only Roger's Memorials was authorized to install the foundation since they are operating as town

sexton. Lastly, there was a report of unauthorized solar lights and a request had been received concerning the trimming of certain shrubs.

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

Ed Sullivan provided a detailed report and summary of the committee's financial health. Hardcopy financial reports were given to each committee member for review. Ed reported that a request had been received from the town's finance manager to provide a payment to the town's general fund in the amount of \$50K, for offset funds paid by the town for burial operations. Discussion. A Motion was made by Ed Sullivan to authorize the Cemetery Committee to reimburse the town's general fund \$50K within the next few weeks. George Warner seconded the motion. The motion passed. Ed also reported that the overall financial outlook continues to improve. Expenses were a bit high but consistent with projections. Further discussion ensued. George Warner made a motion to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Tom Brewer seconded. Motion passed.

## **6. Old Business**

### **a. Girl Scout Project Update**

David McCaffrey provided an update to the committee members on the status of the work accomplished by the Girl Scout troop; future plans; difficulties experienced during mapping/identification. Work will continue at the cemetery as weather conditions permit. Additional research work is being undertaken on computers to help identify veterans.

### **b. New West Clean-Up: Additional Shrub Removal**

Chairman Carole Pyne reported on the ongoing work to clean-up New West from overgrown trees and shrubs. Carole reported that the landscaping company had already completed much of the work, and had offered to cut/remove many additional bushes/trees at no additional cost, as it made it easier for them to maintain the cemetery in the long run. The initial clearing had been completed and already is much improved. The additional trees/shrubs slated for removal have been marked and over the next several weeks will be removed. It was noted that the marked trees/bushes would be cut to the ground as close as possible for safety and to prevent a tripping hazard. The areas will be reviewed in the Spring to determine if root removal is necessary.

## **7. New Business**

### **a. 2013 Meeting Dates**

Chairman Carole Pyne provided the dates for Cemetery Committee meetings in 2013. They are: January 9, April 10, July 10, and October 9. They will occur in the town hall at 2:00 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

### **b. Fall Clean-Up Date**

Carole Pyne indicated that the fall clean-up date this year would occur on November 12. A question was raised by David McCaffrey concerning proximity of Veteran's Day, and the suggestion of delaying the clean-up plans by a week to allow for Veteran's Day

memorials to be placed. Discussion with committee resulted in delaying the Fall clean-up to start on November 16<sup>th</sup>, vice November 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **c. Cemetery Signage**

Chairman Carole Pyne discussed replacement of the existing, outdated signs at the cemeteries with new & improved, cleaner signage. Planning and Zoning requirements will be reviewed in order to assure proper placement. A sub-committee will be appointed at the next meeting to work on the necessary details. David McCaffrey reported that he has photographed all of our signs, and has also photographed area cemetery signs to assist the sub-committee with any necessary/optional modifications. David will provide a workbook showing the current signs.

## **8. Other Business**

CFO, Kim Marcotte, reminded the committee that both Donna Hanks and Lisa Coope, in the Finance Office sell cemetery plots, but that they have little time for any other cemetery matters. The staff will not be used for advance warning calls to plot owners about various cemetery clean-up activities. Chairman Carole Pyne indicated that complaints about the cemetery must be submitted in writing to the Finance Office and that the complaints would be handled by the Cemetery Committee. Further, Carole said that a member associated with the Cemetery Committee has offered to make the advance warning calls to plot owners prior to the cemetery clean-ups.

## **12. Adjournment**

George Warner moved for adjournment of the meeting. The motion was seconded by Tom Brewer. A vote was called. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David McCaffrey  
Recording Secretary (temporary)